Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 25 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 26 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 25 Jan 2023 at 02:27

Confidence: High becoming Medium in detail from Friday.

Headline for Wednesday 25 Jan 2023: Wet start. Becoming drier and brighter. Windy over the summits.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 25 Jan 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** Low Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Fog	Heavy Rain	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability					
40%	60%	40%	10%	00%	00%

Forecast for Wednesday 25 Jan 2023

Weather: Cloudy and overcast overnight with outbreaks of rain and drizzle. The rain turning heavier and more persistent during the morning, before drier and brighter conditions move in from the north during the afternoon. Dry with clear spells in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Nil to 30% overnight and during the morning, rising 80% in the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud, base 300 to 600m, patches below 300m at times, lifting and breaking above the summits in the afternoon. Visibility moderate to very poor overnight and during the morning, becoming very good in the afternoon.

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Forecast for Wednesday 25 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	22/26 SW	26/31 SW	28/34 NW	30/38 NW	31/39 NW	33/41 N	26/32 N
600	15/19 SW	19/24 SW	20/28 NW	22/30 NW	19/29 NW	21/31 NW	16/24 N
300	4/18 SW	5/21 SW	9/24 NW	11/28 NW	8/27 NW	8/26 NW	8/23 N
Valley	3/15 SW	2/15 SW	9/24 NW	10/25 NW	9/26 NW	11/28 NW	8/22 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	4/-2	4/-3	2/-4	0/-7	-0/-8	-1/-9	-2/-9
600	5/1	5/-0	4/-1	3/-3	2/-4	1/-6	0/-6
300	6/5	6/4	6/3	5/2	4/0	3/-0	2/-2
Valley	7/6	7/6	8/6	7/5	6/3	5/2	5/2
Freezing Level*	1900m	1800m	1100m	800m	800m	800m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Nothing further to add.

Forecast for Thursday 26 Jan 2023

Weather: Clear skies overnight with a frost. Then a mainly dry and bright day with some sunny spells. Patchy cloud and the odd light wintry shower possible, mainly over the Eastern and Far Eastern Fells. Dry in the evening with a frost and the chance of freezing fog in the valleys.

Maximum wind: North or NE 15 to 20mph gusts 30mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 80%

Low cloud and visibility: Mainly no significant cloud, but occasional or patches, base around 900m, possible in the east. Visibility very good, except in patchy summit cloud, wintry showers and freezing fog.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 1 rising to Plus 6 during the day.
At 800m: Zero to Minus 2 Celsius
Freezing level: Most levels early and late in the day, but rising to around 800m for a time.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 24 January Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:55. Full report: The thaw continues at all levels – for the second day in succession the summit daytime temperature was above freezing, albeit at only plus 2.6 degrees C at midday. The thaw is especially rapid below 750m and there is now little snow left below 700m. Even above 700m, large areas of fellside, up to and including summit level, are now clear of snow especially on south and west facing aspects. Conversely, there is still a substantial amount of snow in sheltered spots and hollows and on north and east facing aspects where above 850m, (where the majority of the remaining snow now lies) and especially above 900m, drifts over 70cm still exist (although such depth is exceptional). Where undisturbed, the snowpack is generally very soft and wet; however on popular routes there is plenty of compacted snow and ice making conditions treacherous. A particular hazard was isolated patches of hard ice on paths interspersed with slush which were often difficult to distinguish between. With the rise in temperature, there was noticeably less ice today compared with Monday but it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for this to change. Cornices (snow overhangs) exist above many steep north and east facing aspects – such as along Helvellyn's summit plateau. These have weakened with the thaw and become extremely unstable so please keep well back from any such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise.

Despite the milder weather, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) remains below freezing (minus 4 degrees C at midday), so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. For those attempting, or traversing, steep and exposed routes above the snowline (such as the Helvellyn edges), crampons and ice axe remain essential. Swirral Edge holds far more snow compared with Striding Edge (the crest of which is now predominantly bare rock) but both exits consist of steep, deep snow. Although today this snow was largely soft and wet, there remains some harder compacted snow and, again, it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for all the snow to harden and refreeze. These are not places to slip without the means (ie an ice axe) to stop yourself. Microspikes and trekking poles are recommended for any walkers heading above the snowline owing to the amount of ice and compacted snow that still remains on paths. Temperature: plus 2.6C, Maximum wind speed 17.8mph, Wind chill: minus 3.7C, Average wind speed: 15.8mph

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